

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4252

WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 4129

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, NU

SUBJECT: CANAL TREATY CEREMONY: BILATERAL FOR HUECK

SUMMARY: EMBASSY RECOMMENDS EMPHASIS IN BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AND NICARAGUAN CONGRESS PRESIDENT CORNELIO HUECK BE ON US HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERN RE SITUATION IN NICARAGUA. KEY POINT SHOULD BE U.S. ADMINISTRATION'S AND U.S. CONGRESS' AGREEMENT TO MONITOR SITUATION AND TAILOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS APPROPRIATELY. HUECK SHOULD BE DISABUSED OF IDEA THAT GON HAS SUFFICIENT FRIENDS IN CONGRESS TO SAVE IT FROM CUTS IN THE ABSENCE OF FURTHER SIGNIFICANT HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. GON HAS CHOSEN TO INTERPRET AND PUBLICIZE RECENT HOUSE AND SENATE VOTES ON FY-1978 MILITARY ASSISTANCE AS VOTE OF SUPPORT FOR GON. HUECK AS PRINCIPAL POLITICAL ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT SOMOZA SHOULD BE TOLD STRONGLY THAT ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS ARE PREPARED TO DISRUPT TRADITIONAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND PERHAPS REDUCE ECONOMIC PROGRAMS AS WELL AS TAKE OTHER APPROPRIATE STEPS (E.G. URGING IAHRIC INVESTIGATION) UNLESS THERE IS FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION.

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2. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS PRESIDENT SOMOZA PLANS TO ANNOUNCE LIFTING MARTIAL LAW (WHICH WILL ALSO END CENSORSHIP) ON SEPTEMBER 15. EMB HAS BEEN URGING THIS ACTION FOR MANY MONTHS. SIMILARLY, OPPOSITION POLITICAL GROUPS, LABOR SECTOR, CHURCH AND OUTSIDE GROUPS SUCH AS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAVE URGED LIFTING MARTIAL LAW. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT INFORMATION THAT END OF

MARTIAL LAW IS IMMINENT BE TREATED MATTER OF FACTLY AS AN OVERDUE SIGN OF PROGRESS RATHER THAN AS A MAJOR EVENT IN GON RESPONSIVENESS TO HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS OF US AND OTHERS. SIMILARLY, WITH REGARD TO DROP IN REPORTS OF ALLEGED DISAPPEARANCES AND DEATHS OF CAMPESINOS IN THE AREA OF COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS, WE ARE ENCOURAGED, BUT FURTHER EVIDENCE IS NECESSARY. WE REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT CONTINUING ALLEGATIONS OF NATIONAL GUARD TORTURE AND ARBITRARY ACTIONS.

3. AS ALREADY STATED TO HUECK AND OTHER GON OFFICIALS BY AMB. LOWENSTEIN DURING HIS VISIT TO NICARAGUA, IF GON WANTS RELATIONS WITH US TO RETURN TO TRADITIONAL COOPERATIONS, IT SHOULD MAKE OPERATIONAL THE CONGRESSIONAL MECHANISM FOR RECEIVING AND INVESTIGATING ALLEGATIONS OF NATIONAL GUARD ABUSE. SECONDLY, U.S. PREFERENCE FOR COLLABORATING WITH DEMOCRATIC REGIMES MEANS, IN THE CASE OF NICARAGUA, THAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN NICARAGUA NOT JUST THE FORM. WE WILL BE WATCHING THE FEBRUARY 1978 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AS A MANIFESTATION OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT'S PREPAREDNESS TO ALLOW A TRUE TEST OF POPULAR SENTIMENT.

4. LASTLY, TO COUNTER HUECK'S POSITION THAT CUBAN-SUPPORTED REVOLUTIONARY TERRORISM IN NICARAGUA REQUIRES THE GON TO TAKE MEASURES TO DEFEND THE REGIME AND PUBLIC ORDER,
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WE SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THE DESTABILIZING EFFECT OF TERRORISM BUT INSIST ON THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM AS THE BEST MEANS TO UNDERCUT POPULAR SUPPORT FOR REVOLUTIONARIES.
RUBENSTEIN

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 06-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Subject: CANAL TREATY CEREMONY: BILATERAL FOR HUECK SUMMARY: EMBASSY RECOMMENDS EMPHASIS IN BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AND NICARAG
TAGS: PDIP, EWWT, NU, US, (MONDALE, WALTER F), (HUECK, CORNELIO)
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